Richard Thomas “Mac” McDill

June 5, 1944 – June 8, 2020

Richard “Mac” McDill was called home in the early hours of the morning of June 8, 2020 after a nine-month battle with lung cancer, just three days after his 76th birthday. He fought hard and long, keeping his characteristic grit and optimism throughout. His wit and wisdom will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Mac was proud to be one of “God’s chosen,” a native Texan. He was born on June 5, 1944, to Dorothy and Norman McDill in Port Arthur, Texas. In high school he played saxophone and was Drum Major for the French High School Band. After graduation he attended Lamar College and was the president of his fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in Chemistry. Like many young men his age Mac volunteered for the US Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant serving in the Second and Third Marine Divisions. After his honorable discharge, he began a master’s in chemistry at the University of Texas but was drawn away from research by the practical challenges of the booming petrochemical industry.

Mac’s career in the petrochemical industry spanned over 5 decades and took him around the world. He loved solving problems, and the thrill of his work kept him going until the end. He had worked in almost every job in the chemical industry, from pipe fitter to plant manager. In recent years he had found an incredible satisfaction in sales and consulting, and he took great joy in mentoring the next generation. His knowledge of the chemical industry, its people, and its history has been described as “encyclopedic,” and his insight, passion, and integrity were known across the industry.

Mac’s greatest joy, however, was his family. Glenda, his wife of 42 years, was truly the love of his life, and their daughter Jessica, and their grandchildren, Isabelle and William, were the center of his universe. He thoroughly enjoyed visiting Glenda’s family in South Dakota, and even braved the cold of Minnesota winters to spend Christmas with his grandchildren.

Mac was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy, and father, Norman McDill. He is survived by his wife Glenda (Crosby, TX), daughter Jessica Guthrie (Andy), granddaughter Isabelle Guthrie, grandson William Guthrie, mother-in-law Leona McFarland, brothers in law George McFarland (Tracy) and Merle McFarland (Lynn), Sisters in law Jean McNulty (Jerry) and Mary Jo McFarland, several cousins, nine nieces and nephews, and many great nieces and nephews. They will miss him tremendously, but his memory will live on in their stories about him.

If you knew Mac for longer than 5 minutes, you probably had a story to tell about him. He was one in a million, a truly original character. If you would like to share written recollections or photos with the family, you may send them to memorieswithmac@gmail.com and Mac’s daughter Jessica will collect them for her children.

There will be a small memorial service for family and close friends at Crosby United Methodist Church on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 2 pm. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to accommodate many people at the church, but if you’d like to join us online you can watch the service stream at <https://www.facebook.com/crosbyumc/> . While flowers are lovely, the family asks that you make a donation in his memory to the American Cancer Society, the Crosby Public Library, or to the organization of your choosing.